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Imperial College

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What's New

27.05.04. New physical chemistry notes (Ian Gould) available.

<http://www.ch.ic.ac.uk/local/>

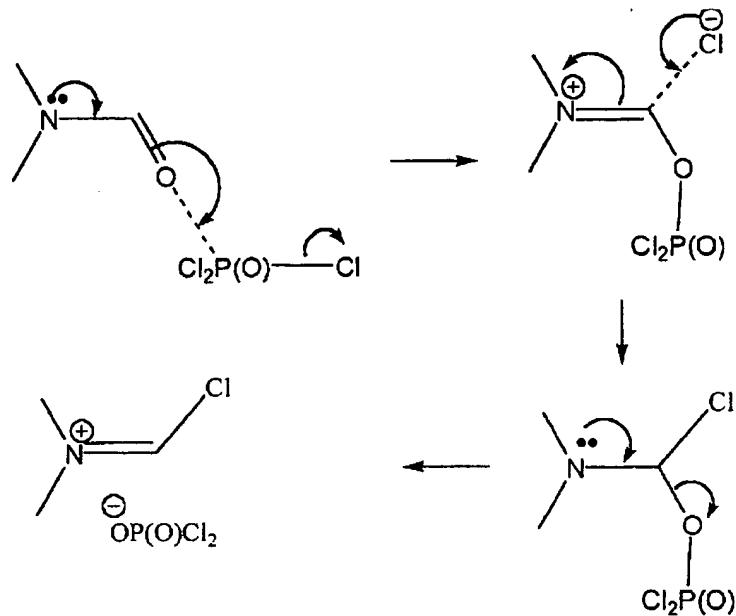


Fig. 5

(b) Reactivity and Orientation: definitions

What do we mean by these terms? If we have a mono-substituted benzene instead of benzene itself then attack by the electrophile can occur in four possible positions (ipso, ortho, meta and para):

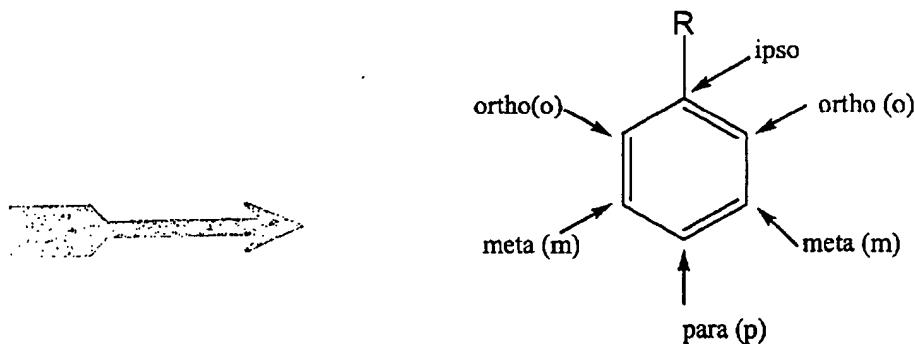


Fig. 6

Which of these sites is attacked is called the Orientation of the reaction.

When compared with benzene, the rate of the reaction of a mono-substituted benzene may be slower or faster. This is the Reactivity of the reaction. If the reaction is slower the substituent is said to deactivate the ring; if faster it activates it. The following illustrate the differences in orientation and reactivity that we may observe: